

WORKERS of the WORLD UNITE THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST

No. 97

With which is incorporated
The International Socialist Review for Australasia.

SYDNEY: MARCH 2, 1912.

Registered at the General Post Office, Sydney,
for transmission by post as a Newspaper.

PRICE, ONE PENNY.

THE SONG OF THE CENT PER CENT

I HEARD the song of the tempered heart
In the stench of the burning oil;
I saw the quivering pistons start,
Then shudder and then recoil;
I heard the whirr of the driving wheel,
And over it sirens blent
Their song with a clamor of gleaming steel
That sang of the cent. per cent.

I heard the strain in the watches long;
In the wake of the coffin barque
I saw the note of the harpies' song
On the fin of the waiting shark;
There gripped the ship in a green-sea vice
The lurid storm unpent—
I heard it claiming its sacrifice,
The song of the cent. per cent.

I heard it there where the cattle roared
In a stream by the western plain,
The song that rang from the swollen ford
To the sentinel ranges' chain.
I saw the stab of the circling horn
That smoldered and gored and rent,
Where it fathered the stockman's babe unborn,
The song of the cent. per cent.

It trammelled the lives of our younger men
With a burden of irksome gyves,
It tied them down to a scratching pen
In a myriad business hives
It stamped their frames with the brand of old
Ere youth and its dream were spent;
I heard it ring o'er the saplings felled,
The song of the cent. per cent.

They phantom-like in the factory toiled,
The pallid brigade of Pain,
Who passed their span in the dust, despoiled
Of river and reaching plain.
They saw the source of the dreamer's dream
In the stretch of the azure tent,
But over it hovered the strident scream,
The song of the cent. per cent.

Where greed in-attate held the earth
A-thrill in its chains arrayed,
Where Mammon strangled the child of Mirth
By churches were people prayed;
On the loathsome breath of the fetid slum
That wandered with fell intent,
I heard it over the anthem come,
The song of the cent. per cent.

It sowed its seed in the fallow land,
And guedoned us but with pain
And so we tramped to the pallid band
And garnered the master's grain.
It sowed the sea with our graveless dead,
It followed its sordid bent,
It dyed the mere and the meed in red,
The song of the cent. per cent.

—L.A.R. in the Bulletin.

The Passing Show.

CONDUCTED BY OTUS.

WHAT a ranging up on the side of unrighteousness there has been on the part of class-conscious churchmen in connection with the Brisbane Strike. First Father O'Gorman let fly the rhetorical rocks and bottles of his stupidity at East Maitland; then the *Free-man's Journal* arose in the name of the R.C. Church to hurl a long curse at the workers because they were not satisfied to quietly endure tyranny added to economic spoliation. Bishop Dubig and two other Queensland priests denounced the strike, and threatened the strikers with pains and penalties. The smaller men of a multitude of denominations yelped from a multitude of pulpits, and the Anglican Archbishop added a somewhat belated curse in the interests of Fat. After which they all settled down to discuss the burning question of "Why the working men don't go to church."

After all the strikes the S.A. Labor members helped to wreck in the interests of the employers, and after the way the Labor Government provided police to bludgeon the strikers and guard the scabs, there was both meanness and ingratitude and untruthfulness in the way the employers' papers switched off the small capitalists' votes from the Labor Party by telling the voters that the Labor Party was responsible for the Brisbane strike, and would cause another strike in South Australia. But it's generally the way. The industrial scab is flung aside by the boss when he has served his purpose, and political scabbiness often meets with much the same sort of reward.

The body of another immigrant, frightfully crushed and mangled, has been found on the railway line—this time at Sydenham Station. He had suicided by flinging himself under a train.

Newcastle miners have turned down the Labor Party's daily paper scheme by a tremendous majority. The proposal was that the union should spend £1 per member on the venture—a sum of about £10,000 in all.



With apologies to "The New World."

FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, DON'T HIT BACK!

LABOR-MEMBER ARTHUR GRIFFITH: The farmers of South Australia were stampeded by the Brisbane outbreak. . . . The strike is a barbarous and obsolete weapon, and the general strike in particular is a nice blend of imbecility and barbarism.

LABOR-MEMBER KING O'MALLEY: I fully endorse Mr. Griffith's views.

LABOR-MEMBER BEEBY: The Brisbane strike lost the Labor Party votes in South Australia; it is a violation of the Labor Party's principle of Arbitration.

LABOR-MEMBER HOLMAN: These disagreements can be settled by other methods than those of the general strike.

LABOR-MEMBER HUGHES: The general strike is a crime.

TRANSPORT WORKERS' COUNCIL (consisting of representatives of Marine Engineers, Seamen, Wharf-laborers, and Trolly and Draymen): It will be considered and treated as an offence if a member of any of the foregoing societies work on or boycotts any vessel in N.S.W. waters from sympathy with the Brisbane strike.

SYDNEY LABOR COUNCIL warned affiliated Unions "against taking precipitate action to assist the Brisbane strikers."

Melbourne, Newcastle, and Adelaide Trade and Labor Councils refused to take action to assist the Brisbane strikers.

There were fewer than 60 members at a N.S.W. Typo. meeting recently, which carried a resolution (by 31 to 27) to raise the secretary's salary to £4 10s a week, and refused to send the matter to a ballot of the organisation, notwithstanding that six months earlier a similar resolution was defeated on a ballot being taken. Thus 60 members (or rather 31 members) set aside the verdict of 1800 members, a strong argument against the membership being permitted to vote being that the general membership wasn't competent to decide such a question. The same meeting (by 11 votes to 12!) almost immediately afterwards refused to permit a ballot of the membership to decide whether £100 should be voted to the Brisbane strikers; the executive made a pronouncement in denunciation of the strike; and individual speakers on the "official" side denounced the strike and condemned the Q. typos for having left work. And the same meeting also carried a resolution urging the Sydney Labor Council to take steps to end the Lithgow strike—which is somewhat humorous when it is remembered that the members of the Typo. Association cheerfully set up Hoskins's advt. for scabs and all sorts of lying reports concerning the strikers, and thus did more than any other unionists to prevent the ending of the strike.

Geo. Dowling, secretary of the Lithgow Branch of the S.F.A., wants to know, re Father O'Gorman's assertion that "the only bright lining to the [Brisbane strike] cloud was the number of young men, and Labor men at that," that volunteered to protect the property of the master class, "dare the P.L.L.-ers repudiate that statement as a dirty slander? Dare they hurl the lie in the teeth of the holy parasite who uttered it? We guess they wouldn't dare. If they did, the Labor Party would lose R.C. votes—and the L.P. would rather sell its shrunken little soul than lose votes."

"THE GREAT SUP-PRESS!" was a black headline in a recent Sydney Worker. And when I searched the columns I found that all mention of the strike of the slaves of the Inky Way at the Worker office had been SUPPRESSED by the Worker. Truly, the Great Sup-Press.

"A good definition of slavery—a living wage."

Tom Gibson (Perth Socialist Party's literature secretary) to the manager of THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST: "You will be glad to learn that we are doing all we can to boom the paper. We have set ourselves a target of 500 weekly. Having already increased to 156 copies, please further increase our order to 192 copies (16 dozen) weekly. At a recent meeting of our Party, we decided to contribute 7s 6d a week towards the Maintenance Fund. We regret the necessity to reduce the size of the paper, but we hope it will soon be eight pages. This can be done if Socialists will get a bit of a hustle on. I appeal for the concerted action of every Socialist in Australia, and all difficulties can be immediately overcome."

Sydney Baptist announces that Miss Cousin (an Australian missionary) has reached Comilla (India), and reports: "We have quite a number of meals. To begin with, we have 'chota hazzi,' or little breakfast, in our rooms at 5.30 a.m. This consists of tea, toast, and fruit. Then, at 8.30, we have cocoa or coffee and biscuits. At 10.30 comes breakfast, consisting of meat, vegetables, and eggs, etc. At 2.30 we have tiffin, consisting of tea, bread and butter, jam, etc., etc. Then at 7 comes dinner, after the old home style." Five good meals a day in a land where millions die of starvation because the ruling class (that sends the missionary to preach the duty of submission) steals more than £30,000,000 a year from the heathen, is an item to make people think.

S.A. Navy writes: Tommy Ryan, late State member for Torrens, but who left that constituency to run for Alexandria, told the cockies that he did not wish them to pay higher rates than they were paying to their men [5s and 6s per day are the rates paid], as freight rates were heavy, etc. He also stated that before he went into Parliament he was £100 in debt, and that he now had £13,000 in the bank, and is chairman of directors of a large firm (Hoskins and Ryan, land agents), and he employs 20 men. I am satisfied that I was a mug to start navying.

Do a little propaganda. Send 8d. in stamps to the manager for a dozen copies of THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST for distribution among your non-Socialist friends.

The Kalgoorlie (W.A.) engineers (on strike) say that the late Acting-Premier (Mr. Collier) "treated them like Chinese Coolies." Why a Westralian Labor Minister should give a Westralian engineer different treatment to what he would give a Chinese Coolie is not quite clear. If the working-class got justice, the Chinese Coolie would get what the Westralian engineer would get—the full value of his product.

Mr. Collier now says that the Amalgamated Society of Engineers "could not have treated a Government of blackfellows worse than by striking without a moment's notice." Well, there's no more reason why a bourgeois Government of white slave-drivers should be treated differently by the workers from a Government of blackfellows—if the blackfellows were also slave-drivers. It is interesting to read that the Labor Premier (Mr. Scaddan) endorses Mr. Collier's decision re the strike.

The girls working in N.S.W. State Clothing Factory have been given a rise of a whole shilling a week. When the Tailloresses' Union was an active force it demanded 2s 6d rises—and got them. Five days a week, of 9 hours each, are worked at the State factory, and the Trades Hall element reckons the McGowen Government is violating the eight-hours-day principle in this respect.

FREDERICK ALLMANN writes: Parents who take more than a passing interest in the education of their younger children should follow carefully the series of articles appearing in *McClure's Magazine*. The Montessori system—more simple than the kindergarten—involves the use of play-things and games calculated to develop the senses and mind of the child in the shortest and purest way without coercion or even persuasion. It is, therefore, free from strain to teachers or students. Dr. Montessori, in her book, "Pedagogia Scientifica," published by Frederick A. Stokes Co., New York, says: "When the children come to school there must be an inspection of their little persons with regard to cleanliness. This should be carried out (if possible) in the presence of mothers; but no observation should be made to them. The child's teeth, nails, neck, ears, face, and hands must be examined, and heed should be given to the tidiness of the hair. If the clothes be soiled, ripped, torn, dusty, or without fastenings, and if the shoes are not properly cleaned, the child's attention must be gently called to these facts. The children must be encouraged to observe the tidiness of one another, but without deprecatory remarks, and by this means they acquire a habit of observing themselves." Light gymnastics give the little ones control of their limbs and co-ordination of their muscles—these exercises are never long enough to cause the least fatigue. Children at four and five years old learn through their work with playthings to spontaneously read and write. There is little if any of the old time tasks and drudgery so often associated with our modern infant schools. Of course, the introduction of these new methods means expense; but any expenditure that provides a safe and solid basis upon which the plastic minds of our growing children can be moulded will always be fully justified and more than compensated in happy, industrious children. The didactic apparatus of the Montessori system was to be placed on the market in January last, obtainable at "House of Childhood," 603 Flatiron Building, New York City. It would occupy too much of your space to fully describe this apparatus, but it occurred to me that parents would do well to present their children with this valuable paraphernalia in preference to the useless toys so often prescribed. Many of the designs could be made at home."

Because Arthur Griffith (Labor-member) committed a breach of faith with the members of the Railway Workers and General Laborers Union, and didn't pay them the extra shilling a day he had pledged himself to pay them, the road-makers at Kosciuszko downed tools and declared a strike; and then Arthur Griffith (Labor-member) ordered the victimisation of all of them, and instructed that they be "paid off." He said the strikers were "industrial outlaws with whom he could hold no communication." Arthur Griffith (Labor member) thus assumes exactly the same attitude as all the other sweaters and exploiters of the working men.

A Blue Mark through this paragraph indicates that YOUR SUBSCRIPTION WILL EXPIRE WITH NEXT ISSUE.

A Red Mark indicates that your Subscription must be renewed AT ONCE, if you desire the delivery of the paper to continue.

The only sure tactics are to fight unceasingly, to keep the spirit of revolt ever awake in the working man, and never to acknowledge satisfaction—for how can the laborer ever be satisfied so long as his labor is exploited. . . . Repeated strikes are for the proletariat a powerful medium of education, as well as excellent practice for action.—M. DELESALLE.

The Writing on the Wall.

BY H. E. HOLLAND.

When Senator Pearce was challenged re his Conscript Scheme (otherwise the Defence Act), he declared that the opposition to the Labor Party's forced militarism only came from an insignificant minority.

Since that pronouncement the unionists of the Barrier have declared against the Act; and now the miners on the northern coal-fields have overwhelmingly condemned it.

The Stanford-Merthyr lodge sent a resolution to the Delegate Board, condemning the Labor Party's Defence Act as a capitalistic scheme of militarism. The Delegate Board, consisting mainly of P.L.L. men, rejected the motion, which was duly upheld by the lodges. Not satisfied with its defeat before the lodges, the Delegate Board sent the question to a referendum of the C.E.F. membership, and arrangements were made for two Federal "Labor" members (Messrs. Watkins and Charlton, ex-miners) to plead before the lodge meetings for the votes of the members in favor of the Defence Act. A request that two Socialists should be permitted to place the other side of the Act before the members in their meetings was refused; and thus the case put forward for Conscript by Messrs. Watkins and Charlton was wholly an *ex parte* case.

With everything in its favor, with suppression in the union of the opponents of militarism, and with suppression of criticism of Messrs. Watkins' and Charlton's campaign in the local capitalist press—the ballot has ended most disastrously for the Labor Party and its "scheme." The total number of ballot papers returned was 5437. Of these only 1882 voted for the Defence Act, 3359 voted against it—a majority of nearly two to one, while 106 votes were informal.

This is a magnificent answer to Senator Pearce—a splendid condemnation of Conscript—of forced militarism. But it is in itself not sufficient. To give logical effect to their vote, the miners must now refuse to permit their sons to drill or take any part in the murder scheme.

If the miners permit their sons to drill, they will nullify the whole effect of their condemnation of conscription, and will undoubtedly contribute towards the hastening of the time when the Government of the day will call on the conscripts to turn their rifles on their own class and their own kith and kin in the inevitable hour of industrial revolt.

If the northern miners are prepared to logically follow up their ballots with determined resistance to the Conscript Act, by refusing to permit their boys to be taught how to do murder in defence of capitalist interests, then their voting in the referendum just ended will mean the handwriting on the wall for the bourgeois Labor Party, for organized murder, and for Capitalism itself. If the miners still permit their sons to drill, their ballots will only represent so many blank cartridges. This writer believes the miners will move along the lines of logic—and will tell the "Labor" Government and its Minister for Murder that their sons SHALL NEVER BE TRAINED MURDERERS.

Child Slavery And the U.L.U. of South Australia.

BY F. J. R.

RENMARK, Dec. 8, 1911.—Messrs. Cutlack, Bovill, and Moffat, Renmark.—Dear Sirs,—I wish to inform you that at a meeting of the U.L.U. held last evening the proposals drafted by you were duly considered, and a resolution carried in the following terms: "That we agree to children under 14 years cutting stone fruits and pears, at the prices submitted by you, without any restriction as to ages. Overtime to be arranged between employer and employee, and the minimum rate of wages to apply only to persons over 14 years." Trusting this will get over the difficulty which arose, and soliciting a reply by to-morrow at 3 o'clock, when I will be in a position to finalize.—I am, Sirs, yours truly, J. M. BRAND, chairman, U.L.U.

THE above is a copy of a letter forwarded to the representatives of the Renmark Fruitgrowers Association by the Renmark branch of the U.L.U. of South Australia, the secretary of which (Mr. Haviell) "expressed his great satisfaction at the termination of hostilities and the assurance of industrial peace for the next 12 months." It is further stated that the U.L.U. carried the above resolution "unanimously and with the best of feeling."

From every dairy farming district in Australia comes a loud cry of the slavery inflicted upon children of tender years in those districts. School teachers tell of how children in these districts fall asleep at their lessons through excessive work and long hours. School inspectors add, by their practical observation, how the children are stunted both mentally and physically. The Sydney Bulletin has had cartoon after cartoon, article after article, depicting awful instances of cruelty to children. Even the capitalist dailies have called these child slavers to a halt, and although no craft unions have made a united protest against this child slavery not one has condoned the brutish work of these brutes. Yet here is a union, a union that prides itself upon its militancy, upon its willingness to fight if the cause is worth fighting, irrespective of pecuniary loss or political Labor scowls and condemnations, that sanctions the employment of child Labor "without any restriction as to age."

Ye Gods! this is a union, a supposed industrial union, a fighting union, a militant union, a union that boasted that it was prepared to fight Governments, signing an agreement with a clause to the effect that it distinctly allows employers to exploit children at a tender age—at any age under fourteen, and that "overtime is to be arranged between employer and employee." Picture a child of 6 years of age arranging her overtime rates with a drunken, bullying foreman. Picture it, you militant unionists—you men whose boast it was "to bring Governments to their knees." Think what this means. For children under 14 years of age overtime is allowed—the rates for which are to be arranged by the children, and "the minimum rate of wages to apply only to persons over 14 years." Which means that the U.L.U. is prepared to allow children to be worked at any age, for as many hours as the employer may demand, for whatever wages the employer wishes to pay.

Was ever there in the industrial history of Australia a more dastardly, a more despicable, a more cowardly agreement than this? We curse the capitalistic Federal Labor Government because it sacrifices children to the god of militarism at the behest of its class, but here is a supposed trades union sheltering its cowardly great self behind weak, defenceless children. Is it possible to imagine anything more miserable, more contemptible? The grand finale—"I will be able to finalize," so writes J. M. Brand. I—I—I!—as though it were the proudest moment of his life when he is to sign this dishonorable agreement, and the secretary chimes in expressing his "great satisfaction" with the agreement.

It's a sorry chorus, a chorus that clearly rings the death-knell of the U.L.U. as a fighting organisation. The U.L.U. makes its exit from the stage of the industrial movement of Australia blighted, and cursed by all who ever had hopes that it would live up to its objective by fighting, always fighting in the interests of the oppressed class, the working class.

John Brown: A Study.

BY W. R. W.
Concluded.

WHEN the last big strike happened, John Brown says he "was caught," and it cost him "£3000 for demurrage on steamers." But he swears he will "never be caught again." He has all he wants, and he doesn't care "whether he works any more or not." He means that he doesn't care whether he allows his miners to make his fortune any larger or not. If they will submit to be exploited, very well, he can do with a few more thousands. If they refuse, then he has enough for all his future wants, and he can simply close his pits and allow the miners to starve.

It is a light matter to John Brown, whether the men risk their lives, and frequently lose them or get maimed, for him, in return for a starvation pittance, or refuse, and decide to starve at the pit's mouth. He thinks that being used to starve, as he is to gorge, they should be as ready to starve at work in the pit as in idleness away from it.

It is useless to condemn John Brown for his views. He cannot help them. He has been trained to believe as he does. He was brought up and mentally equipped to be an exploiter. The press booms him as a great man. Everybody persuades him that he is something above the ordinary, and that the miners were created to work for him.

He cannot help being a victim to so much adulation. When everybody has been warmly admiring him, he cannot be blamed if he grows in the belief that he is something to be admired.

Had he been a trapper, wheeler, water-baler, and miner, he would have thought differently. He would have been what the press calls one of the "young hot-bloods of Labor," most likely.

If we are not such stuff "as dreams are made of," we are largely the result of our environment, and John Brown is the result of an environment and a system which compels him to look at life and his relation to his fellows from a wrong standpoint. It is futile to condemn him as Judge Isaacs did when fining him for conspiring to restrain trade and skin the public. John couldn't help fleecing the consumer any more than he can help exploiting the producer. He has been educated that way, and all his intimates and companions in the grabbing game look upon society as their prey.

For the judge to condemn John Brown's persistent opposition to the miners and his general ethical outlook was useless. It is the system which produced John and made him hate working men that should be condemned. The judge should have pitied John Brown as one who had been misled from his early childhood, and who had never had a fair chance of learning right from wrong, and, if possible, he should, instead of fining him a paltry £500, have sentenced him to a year's work as a coal-miner at the face. This would have opened John Brown's eyes and made a great improvement in him.

At present John Brown and his press supporters believe that, had they their own way for five years, the coal industry would flourish and the miners would settle down to work under any conditions. They affect to believe that the men would lose sight of their own interests, and would only consider those of their exploiters; and that they would come to regard the stinking, insanitary pits as enchanted caves fragrant with the odors of the rose and the honeysuckle. We who have been below, and know the actual conditions, feel sure that John and the editors are mistaken, and that their proposals, if given effect to, would ruin everything and probably provoke a revolt.

The system produces those opposite beliefs, creates two classes, and makes war between them. We cannot hate John Brown as he hates us; we rather pity him. He is unhappy and discontented, and we know that from his earliest children his feet were set towards selfishness, strife, class hatred, and unhappiness.

John was taught that the main object in life was money; that riches indicate merit and symbolise all that is admirable. He was born and taught in a society which gives its best rewards to the gross and selfish, while it laughs at the virtuous and honorable as insane and dangerous. He has enough for all his wants, but he still grasps for more, and yet money can bring him no relief. He cannot eat two dinners, sleep in two beds, nor ride in two motors at once. Rich food and wines injure his digestion, and cause him to suffer from mental and moral dropsy. He is angry and impatient with everything around him—even his miners seem to enjoy life more than he does, in spite of the smallness of their income.

He is learning that money does not always bring happiness; that selfishness and greed breed misery. Yet John Brown persists in scrambling after money. Is he sane? Not quite, or he would know that this scramble after wealth makes some rich and heartless, and others poor and miserable; and that the rich and heartless rob the poor and miserable, causing them to hate each other. John believes in being rich and keeping others poor; in living in a

mansion while his men live in hovels. He believes in feeding and housing his race-horses better than his miners, yet he expects his miners to respect his views. He is not rational!

John Brown is the victim of an optical illusion which makes him believe in a system of mammon worship that creates the extremes of wealth and poverty, injustice, crime, and slavery. It is this system which keeps his miners poor and discontented, and hands the bulk of the wealth they produce over to him to spend in vanities which bring him no real happiness. John has to pay trainers and jockeys more to help him to get rid of his wealth than he will consent to pay those who produce it.

It would broaden and deepen John Brown's outlook wonderfully if he could live for a year or two in a miners' hovel on a miners' income. Like King Lear he has "ta'en too little thought of this." The frenzied old king said, "Take physic, pomp, and learn the cares and woes of want." All John needs is a dose of Lear's physic. He is gorged with high living, and is suffering from mental atony.

John Brown, like Solomon, has tried every pleasure that money can bring, and he finds that all is vanity and vexation of spirit. Eating, drinking, revelling, and the gross sport of horse-racing, are vanities, and have brought him to think everything is wrong but himself. He is dissatisfied with the world of men, and would have them different, but he does not see that he and his class are inevitably making them as they are—some over-gorged and discontented and others under-fed and discontented.

John Brown is bitter, and to be pitied. He was unfortunate in his youth. He was conspired against and misled, and now, instead of being honored and respected by his workpeople, he finds that they despise him. They fight him and sing, "We'll hang John Brown to a sour apple tree." And he feels that they are hanging him to a "sour apple tree" every day of his life when they attack his cherished opinions—the opinions of his class. He is being tortured by Socialists with economic truth, which, to a man in his position, is tantamount to hanging him to the sourest of all apple trees.

John Brown is too choleric, too ignorant, and too violent, to see that in attacking his pet system of mammon-worship, with its disastrous effects upon him and his slaves, the miners are doing him a real service. They are endeavoring to save him from himself, by destroying the system which is the cause of his trouble and discontent.

The Botany Strike.

BY J. W. ROCHE.

ON Monday, Feb. 5, Labor-Minister Griffith visited the Botany job, in accordance with his promise. Three of the men were appointed to accompany him during the inspection. Writer was one of the three. As soon as we met him, Mr. Griffith told us that he would not recognise us officially. He said we had "scabbed" by striking without consulting the union. Imagine this despicable traitor to the working class calling honest men scabs for striking to compel his attention to our claims after he had turned a deaf ear to those claims for months. He stopped the black soil work, and allowed 11s per day of eight hours for the time the men had worked in it. They had asked for 12s for six hours! What a generous Labor Minister! And a number of the men at Botany worked hard to put him where he is! The result of his visit was an insult to the Botany men. After calling them scabs and outlaws, he flung them a paltry couple of shillings for the black soil work, and, by the way, he is in future going to have this soil shifted by machinery—"at the taxpayers' expense," too. What a logical Minister! He "won't waste the taxpayers' money" by paying a little more wages to the workers, but his engineers, with his consent, have spent and will spend thousands of pounds on "experiments."

We must now wait patiently until the wages board deal with the rest of our claims, and Mr. Griffith has promised most faithfully that any increase granted by the board shall date back to the first of the year; but it shall only apply to those working on the job when the award reaches the Minister.

One young fellow was sacked soon after on the ground that he wouldn't do a day's work, and it took them 8 months to find it out. I wonder how many of us will be there when the award reaches the Minister? I am quite satisfied that this middle-class Minister is contemptible enough to do anything in the interests of his middle-class friends.

The workers at Botany have been sold and insulted by traitors to their class, and it is to be hoped that the dose of Laborite medicine that they have received will make them think, and will cure them of the P.L.L. disease—a political cancer which is eating into the very vitals of the working class, and destroying their life as a class. Socialism is the only possible cure, because it means the destruction of the Class State as well as the private capitalist, and the ownership by the workers of all the wealth they create.

(The writer of the above is now held prisoner in Darlinghurst Jail by Mr. Griffith's Government.)

Barrier Socialists and the Barmaids

BY SOCIUS.

Who said the Age of Chivalry had passed? One would travel a long way through history ere he would find four young men more chivalrously disposed than Messrs. Flanagan, O'Leary, Green, and Cogan, members of the Barrier Branch of the S.F.A. Their chivalry knew no bounds when the barmaids and waitresses, with the rest of the local members of the Hotel, Club, Restaurant, and Caterers' Employees' Union, threw down the gamut to their sweaters, handed them a log, and said, "Grant us that, or we strike." The above quartette lay low, and watched proceedings for a while. What did they see? They saw exactly the same wire-pulling fineness and subtle treachery at work in the counsels of the opportunists who masquerade as the top-dog Labor chiefs of the Barrier as you in Sydney see by their confederates in the cause of class recreancy every time an industrial antagonism reaches its crisis stage.

As 1911 was drawing to a close, the edict went out from the organised heads of the local hush foundries that the tucker-tariff was to jump with the dawn of 1912 owing to the increased price of food-stuffs and the increase of wages. Mark that, ye whose "Laborism" consists in higgling and haggling for another bob a day. Since the lockout, manufacturers, and consequently middlemen of all descriptions have as a matter of course risen their tariffs to such a pitch that in no way is the Barrier worker one degree better off than under the old regime of lower wages. That aside, the "increase of wages" alluded to on the posters of the boss-restaurant keepers has not been participated in by their employees. Indeed, no section of the working class on the Barrier is imposed upon as are the victims of the Publicans and Restaurant-keepers, none work harder, none work so long. And, be it said, there is no more remunerative business here than the sale of beer and dinners. The Barrier folk are solicitous for the prestige of their bellies. The brain, generally speaking, can go hang.

The sweated ones approached their fat bosses and asked or prayed for a rise in wages and a decrease in hours. The requisition fairly made the fat men jump with merriment. They laughed loud and long. They continued to laugh until a strike was mooted, and then they waxed serious. A meeting was convened by the union, and men and girls showed their determination to come out. But they had a weak-kneed executive to reckon with. The efforts of this body were directed in a cryptic way to smother the strike idea. The whole business, right from the jump, was sickening. Here was a union, outraged, ready and willing to fight. Here was a gang of sweaters who despised them all socially as only flunkies are despised; robbed them economically as only wage-slaves are robbed; and tricked them politically as only the working class of Australia is tricked. The men and women were prepared to fight and were only waiting for the call out. The outside unions of the Barrier were prepared to back them to the end, morally, financially, and by boycott. The liquor lords lay between a chill and a shiver. And the executive, with no more fight in them than pussy, kept calling for conciliation, compromise, and a general all-round backing-down of their union. At the head is Mr. P. Montroy, the president, a man who wrapped his bloody fists in the folds of the Union Jack at the Boer war in the name of Capitalist laws, but dared not fight down the laws which circumscribed and threatened to crush his union into submission.

And what was the demand of the union? The "exorbitant demand," as Mr. J. K. Carter, Jerry-built unionist, called it when speaking as delegate of the B.L.F. to the union. Mr. Burton, secretary of the union, took pains to make it plain at every meeting, that the wages log was copied from the Sydney log, they being affiliated with the Sydney union. Practically, they claimed the right to come under the accredited log of their union. In this Mecca of Democracy and Organised Labor, where board and lodging is anything from 22s 6d a week upwards, they ask for the same working conditions as their Sydney comrades. And immediately the Labor would-bees are on their hind legs to denounce it as "exorbitant," and the cry goes the rounds, "Arbitrate! Conciliate! Compromise!"

Came a night, a week ago, when it was moved to strike at 12 o'clock on the morrow. The horror-stricken executive hedged and hedged, and talked and talked of Coercion Laws and Masters' and Servants' Acts and Industrial Disputes Acts and what not until the poor girls saw the very jail walls of Capitalism looming before their mental vision.

The never-readies moved that a week's notice be given the proprietors, not by the union, but by each individual unionist. This practically nullified the strike and gave the proprietors time and notice to bring scabs from where they would. Then a letter was published in the *Barrier Daily Truth* from the council of the masters to the effect that every unionist who ceased work broke the law according to the technicalities of the law. Then the employers and the executive of the employees agreed to arbitrate. A special meeting was called to meet the genial

spokesmen of the Barrier Labor Federation, Messrs. A. Cook, J. H. McCubbin, and J. K. Carter.

Knowing the calibre of these gentry, knowing that as arbiters they had an axe to grind, and knowing that a scheme was being hatched to doom and damn the strike ere it started, the abovementioned quartette of chivalry took out contribution cards and were registered in the books of the union.

That night Hell itself was let loose in the supper room of the Trades Hall, where the union met. The three delegates from the B.L.F. talked the old Lib.-Lab. twaddle about scraping to Law and Order, about "crawling before we walk," about extortionate demands, about the glories of arbitration, about catering for public sympathy, etc., etc., etc. Flanagan flung the apple of discord among the "heads" by rising and saying, "If those laws are coercive and aimed at unionism, then it's up to all unionists to defy and break those laws."

This remark was greeted with loud cheers from the rank and file and by jeers from the executive and B.L.F. representatives. Then was revealed the move on the chess board to checkmate the strike at its source. The B.L.F. delegates advocated that, instead of ceasing work on the Thursday night in compliance with the union's decree, the members continue at their posts until such time as the conference is over. While executive officers and the B.L.F. bounders engaged in this sort of palaver Green rose and moved "That the union adheres to its resolution calling upon all members to cease work on Thursday night." This was followed by a perfect storm of applause, and as the mover spoke to it and sounded the utter folly and ridiculousness of the employees pleading with the bosses to ignore their week's notice the cheers arose, and the delegation arose too with an icy smile and points of order and demands for the application of the gag.

An amendment was moved, "That all employees continue work until such time as the delegates' report of the transactions at the conference is received."

On a division the motion was carried by the room full against 6 dissentients.

Then British play began. Chairman, executive officers, and B.L.F. delegates went stark staring mad. Carter arose brimming full of personal spleen and vitriol. He denounced "these innovators," and declared that he would devote his life to fight down all militant projects. Cook took it upon himself, as president of the B.L.F., to say in the name of the 5,000 to 6,000 unionists represented on the B.L.F., that all support of the Federation would be withdrawn from the fight. That as far as the B.L.F. was concerned the strike and the strikers could go to the devil. He and the thousands of good unionists for whom he spoke washed their hands of the whole affair.

O'Leary and Green replied to these attacks assuring the mendacious would-bees that they and their kidney could fight them till Hell freezes, but they would be in return followed, and so long as they went among unionists with their palliation pleas and weedy-mouthed tartrididdles, so long would their shams and snares be ventilated and exposed.

Up to this stage the militants had the backing of the whole meeting. The men and girls had listened to the argument and saw the sanity of the Socialists' standpoint. What they did not know was that the men they had cheered and cheered again were Socialists.

After much confidential whisperings and noddings and looks of wisdom among the would-bees around the table, the chairman, Montroy, ex-British soldier, suddenly rose with swinging arms and foaming mouth and raucous voice and condemning finger and roared out like one bereft that the men whose resolution they had carried were Revolutionary Socialists of the reddest dye. Were these red-raggers going to dictate the policy of their "beautiful" union? He would not be nobbled by such wild creatures! He was sensible, practical, tactful, diplomatic, quite right in his head, etc., etc. As a result of their presence and action they had lost to them the support of the thousands of unionists back of the B.L.F. The delegation had told them that. Then the secretary and the other officials resigned dramatically. The greater part of the members at this stage, disgusted with the whole fracas, left the hall in a body. Only the four Socialists and about fifty others were left.

More hasty talky-talky around the table, and Mr. Montroy, the chairman (who had at the beginning of the meeting congratulated Charlie Green on joining, saying, "We want someone to put some fight into our organisation"), rose and made a great mouthful of the union throwing over the support of the B.L.F. for a few revolutionists, and moved for the expulsion of "these gentlemen." Same was carried on the voices. The reds filed out, leaving them—not alone in their glory, but in the company of the bluff-brigade of the B.L.F. who had been sermonising re their "exorbitant demands."

Next morning we learned that the subterfuge of the B.L.F. delegates, the lie on their lips when they dared to make class-traitors of the unionists of the Barrier, had won the day. The amendment that kept the employees at their tasks till such time as

the conference finished its palaver, the amendment that made a scraping fool of every member who had given notice to quit, i.e., the amendment that had been turned down with a loud bang, was ultimately carried.

Never did the writer hear of such a colossal farce in the history of unionism. The executive and delegation, oblivious of vital issues involved, and descending to vent personal spleen, the chairman forgetting his place and joining wildly in the pandemonium, the militants gagged and expelled, thrown into the ranks of the non-unionists because, forsooth, they are militants, and finally a resolution that had been knocked flat put and carried.

Is there hope for these hotel and restaurant employees getting up out of the bog of sweatedom? Yes, emphatically yes. The unionists are right enough. The girls are readier than the men. Only an understanding of the essence of things economic and social is lacking. Given an executive that will rise to the occasion and put the fear of organised labor into the philistine hearts of the bounders, and they will become an invincible force.

Strike at Mount Morgan.

BY J. M'GUINNESS.

STRIKE on here. Reason: Some of our comrades victimized after recent call-out. Scabs working mine and charnel house, otherwise reduction works. Strike camp formed today. No scabs need apply. Militancy the watchword. Comrades feel proud that they are the first to raise the banner of revolt against the oligarchy—the Mt. Morgan Co., its satellites, its parasites and scabs, and its pestiferous and systematized peonage and slavery. What warms the heart of a rebel above all else is the moral victory already won. If you happen to spot William Guy Higgs, our "Labor" representative, trotting around your burg, get him to break the news gently to our "Labor" Prime Minister, that we may yet need a few of his uniformed freaks to enforce our demands. Since our demands are just, Mr. Fisher will, of course, accede to any request for help in that direction. Vive la Revolution!—20.2.12.

Leichhardt-Annandale.

A splendid meeting, interrupted occasionally by rain, lightning, and thunder, and also by one unfortunate P.L.L. man, was addressed at Leichhardt on Saturday evening by Young (chair), Knight, Rutherford, and Holland. The speakers received warm support from the audience.

Queensland Worker says: "The splendid services rendered by the Sydney International Socialists, and their official organ, THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST, during the present industrial struggle in this State, should always be gratefully remembered by the unionists of Queensland."

The sun could as easily be spared from the universe as free speech from the liberal institutions of society.—SOCRATES.

Answers to Correspondents.

INDUSTRIALIST, Adelaide.—Reached us too late for this issue. Next week.

H.S.W., Broken Hill.—Thanks. A.S., Lithgow.—Received. Good copy to it. N.W., Cobar.—Will knock into shape and use later.

E.C.M., Sydney.—Next week.

E.C., Gloucester.—Many thanks. Writing. T.G., Redfern.—Read "My Country, Right or Wrong," be Herve, and then write to us again on the same subject.

Sydney Propaganda Fixtures.

SATURDAY.

Rozelle—Rees, Rutherford.
Newtown—Hennessy, Duffield, Bowen, Walsh.
Leichhardt—Knight (chair), Young, James.

SUNDAY.

Domain—Rees (chair), James, Grant, Riley.
Market-street—Aekling, Grant, Slade.
Newtown—Duffield, Walsh, Rutherford.
Balmmain—Holland.

Press Fund.

Already acknowledged, £140 7s. Weymark, 5s. Total, £140 12s.

Maintenance Fund.

Friend, Cessnock, 5s 6d; Buchanan, 1s. Total for week, 6s 6d.

Party Premises Fund.

Previously acknowledged, £18 18s 11d.

The International Socialist

Journal of Revolutionary Socialism and Industrial Unionism.

Owned and controlled by the International Socialists.

Subscription: Australia, 4s per year, 1s per quarter. Postage added to other countries.

H. E. HOLLAND, Editor.
O. W. JORGENSEN, Manager.

Office: 61 GOULBURN STREET, SYDNEY.

S.F.A. News & Notes.

National Executive.

THE Ad. Council met on Monday night. Present: Winspear (Sydney), Sloan and McKelvie (Balmmain), Slade (Newtown), and Holland (gen. sec.).

Correspondence was received from W. J. Lander, Brisbane, asking for particulars re forming S.F.A. Branch at that centre; from the I.S.B., enclosing regulations re International Congresses.—Information to be supplied to comrade Lander. I.S.B. regulations to be published.

Resolved: That the S.F.A. protest against the manner in which members of the Balmmain Branch are being prosecuted for street speaking, while other bodies are permitted to hold outdoor meetings without interference; that the S.F.A. protest against the N.S.W. Labor Government permitting the police in its employ to be used for a class purpose, as at Balmmain; that the attention of the working class be directed to the fact that J. W. Roche, sentenced as a result of the first Balmmain anti-free-speech prosecution, is being held in jail by a Labor Government, and that the S.F.A. demand his immediate release.

Resolved: That the congratulations of the S.F.A. be tendered to the miners of the northern coalfields on their splendid condemnation by ballot of the capitalistic Conscriptio Act of the Federal Labor Government, and that the miners be urged to give logical effect to their ballots by refusing to permit their sons to drill, wear the uniform, or in any way take part in that system of forced militarism which will inevitably result in the boys being ordered to turn their guns on their fathers in days of industrial revolt.

Resolved: That the S.F.A. protest against the continued unjust imprisonment of Messrs. Scully, Williams, Hayes, and Hutton, held in jail by the N.S.W. Labor Government in connection with incidents arising out of the Lithgow Strike, and that a demand be made for their immediate release.

Sloan, Winspear, and Holland were appointed a committee to prepare annual report for Conference.

Newtown.

Saturday and Sunday's meetings were very successful. Duffield was too ill to attend, and Walsh was the only speaker.

There was a good attendance at the Branch meeting on the 22nd. Two new members were admitted. The following resolution was carried: "That the attention of Mr. W. A. Holman, Attorney-General, be called to the fact that under the regime of a Labor Government, in the year 1912, a citizen of Sydney, one John William Roche, has been fined, with the alternative of jail—which he has taken on principle—for daring to voice his views on Socialism in the streets of Balmmain; and that this Branch of the S.F.A. protests most emphatically against this outrageous interference with free speech, and calls upon the Labor Administration to put its declared principles into force and repeal the unjust and infamous sentence of one month's jail." It was also resolved to ask Newcastle Council for permission to take up collections at propaganda meetings.—ANNIE DUFFIELD, sec. (23.2.12.)

Sydney.

The Free Speech Committee has protested re the jailing of comrade Roche.

Seabridge, of Broken Hill, on his way to Europe, and Wickham, of Vic., for Queensland, passed through Sydney during the last few days.

Socialists will regret to learn that H. Garisch is seriously ill. He has gone to Waterfall Sanatorium.

Recent arrivals are comrades Bowers, from N.Z., and Greenberg, from Westralia.

Before he left Sydney, "Dogmatist" was entertained at Lolato's Casper's Cafe by a number of comrades.

Robert Semple, from N.Z., was due to arrive in Sydney on Tuesday of this week.

Sunday's Domain meeting was splendidly successful, notwithstanding that the rain drenched some of the speakers.

Sydney Branch has protested to the Labor Attorney-General against the jailing of J. W. Roche.

At the I.S. Club picnic on Sunday a collection, 16s 7d, was taken for the Free Speech Fight.

Balmmain.

At a special meeting of the Branch on Thursday night a resolution was carried and ordered to be sent on to the Attorney-General stating the facts of J. W. Roche's case, protesting against the treatment meted out to him, and demanding his release.

At Rozelle on Saturday night, the usual meeting was held, with M. Moore (chair), James, Rees, Sloan, and C. Moore speaking.

On Sunday night, the local Socialists, the speaker, the police, the lawyer for the prosecution, and others put in an appearance at Rowntree-street; but a stronger force than the police compelled a stoppage of the meeting. Lightning, thunder, and falling rain won, and it was arranged that Holland should give his address on the following Sunday.

WHAT MAKES THE LAUGHING JACKASS LAUGH?

(FOR THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST.)

BY DANDELION.

WHAT makes the blithe jackasses grin,
Perched high upon a tree?
What causes all their merry din
And fill the bush with glee?
Do tales of captured snakes and such
Excite the birds to mirth,
Of snakes who "had a drop too much"
Before they struck the earth?
Or do those feathered wags discuss
Our stupid social plan,
And sit and laugh aloud at us—
Their lord and master—Man?
Is that the cause of laughter, bold,
The secret of their bliss?
And do those merry jokers hold
A confab such as this:

1st L.J.: Hoo-hoo! I saw a man to-day
Work hard in sun and shade,
And meekly take, as ample pay,
A third of what he made!

2nd L.J.: Hoo-hoo! Ha-ha! I saw the den
He calls, with pride, his "home"—
A little humpy, eight-by-ten,
With oil-can for a dome.

3rd L.J.: Hoo-hoo! Hoo-hoo! Hoo-ha-ha-ha!
The walls and roof were bark;
I leant against a tree—oh, Ma!
I thought 'twas Noah's Ark.
Hoo-hoo! I saw within the hut
Two saucy cats, minus tails,
A half-starved cat, a brindle slut,
A wife and seven kids.
The children wore but breeches and skirt,
Their naked feet were brown;
Their mother wore a blouse and skirt—
She also wore a frown.
She held a paper in her hand—
Hoo-ha! It makes me laugh!

2nd L.J.: "The Eggs Bird," I understand?

3rd L.J.: It was—the Telegraph.
I fluttered to an oak to hear,
And listened overhead:
And this, in accents full of fear,
Is what the woman read:
"Late Cablegrams"—"The Chinese War!"—
"Success of Rebel Arm!"—
"The Emperor's Defeat!" (Oh, Lor!)
It filled her with alarms.
Said she: "Them horrid rebel things—
Republicans and sem—
Ain't no respect for queens and kings
Or emperors. By gum!
I hope and trust"—(she shook with fear
And trembled in her rage)—
"Them heathen Chinkies don't come here
And fly their dragon flags.
Them yellow-skinned whay prays to Joss
Are worse than Greek or Turk.
And if they come they'll kill Jim's boss.
Then where will Jim get work?"

All: Hoo-hoo! Ha-ha! A splendid joke!

3rd L.J.: A noble home to wreck,
Hoo-ha! I took a laughing-stroke
And nearly broke my neck.

1st L.J.: "That's nothing to what I saw
Upon the Cobbar track—
A duped imported Johnny Raw,
With bluey on his back.
He tramped along with heavy load
And searched before, behind,
And sideways on the dusty road
For something hard to find.
Thought I, "Now, what's a miss?"
I flew into a gum-tree nigh
And heard the fool say this:
"This strange indeed, 'tis passing strange,
But yet what tales Reid told,
I've searched o'er plain and mountain range,
But saw no sign of gold.
They called this land a diamond set
Within a sapphire sea;
I've seen no trace of gems as yet,
It looks like dirt to me!
Reid's fairy tales I now begin
Most grievously to doubt,
I realise I'm "taken in"
To keep my dars out!"
An' Handy Andy's rosy tales
He pitched to Di and Tail,
To fool them, when he went to Wales—
(Hoo-ha! I had to laugh.)
"The very birds within the wood
Beride me as I pass;
The creatures must have understood
I'm Andy Fisher's Ass!
No wonder you are laughing—none—
My merry feat erred elf.
Now I perceive how I've been "done"
I laugh, and curse—myself!"
(Hoo-hoo! Ha-ha! I laughed with glee.)
He turned in shame and disgust,
And when I looked I couldn't see
His flying heels for dust!

All: Hoo-hoo! Ha-ha! Hoo-ha-ha-ha!
It is amusing—quite!

1st L.J.: Now, don't inform that blab Galah,
Or we'll get shot for spite,
Feb. 4th, 1912.

Free Speech Fight at Balmain

As to Mr. A. P. Montgomery.

THE letter handed to the police by the Council, and on which action was taken, was signed "A. P. Montgomery, Rowntree-street." The Balmain Socialists, a number of whom live in Rowntree-street, were satisfied that there was no one of that name in the street. A personal canvass of the street bore this out. But to make doubly sure, one of the secretaries of our Free Speech Committee addressed a letter to "A. P. Montgomery, Rowntree-street, Balmain," and registered and posted it at North Sydney. That registered letter has come back to us undelivered, bearing the initials of six Balmain letter carriers, and the intimation that the addressee can't be found. Therefore, at its best, A. P. Montgomery's letter was a fake—an anonymous frame-up; at its worst it was a forgery; and again therefore, the prosecution of the Socialists has been made at the instance of a person who makes anonymous charges or who is a forger.

Socialists' Letter to the Council.

THE letter from the secretary of the Balmain Branch of the S.F.A., which was before last meeting of the Balmain Municipal Council, set forth that the Socialists protested against the manner in which they were being singled out for speech suppression. In common with several religious bodies, it was stated, the local Socialists have held meetings on the streets of the municipality for a number of months. These meetings have been generally attended by police officers, who have hitherto never interfered; but on Sunday, Feb. 11, as the result of a letter written to the Council by a Mr. Montgomery, the police ordered the meeting to close, and took the speakers' names. The Socialists, it was pointed out, are all working men, who devote their leisure time to Socialist propaganda as a matter of deep principle. Their speakers endeavor to teach the principles of economic justice, which makes possible the highest form of morality. On the night that the Socialist speakers' names were taken, the Salvation Army, with band and banners, held a meeting in the main street not far from the Socialist meeting, and was not interfered with. Also on the same night, the Methodist Mission held a meeting in the next street to the Socialist meeting, and was not interfered with. Moreover, on the very spot where the Socialist meeting was held, the Mission held meetings all through last summer, and was not interfered with. Indeed, there was no reason why these bodies should be interfered with; and there is no reason why the Socialists should be interfered with. But the Socialists fail to see why it is obstruction in their case only, and not obstruction in the case of the others.

When these facts were considered, it was asserted, it would not be necessary to tell the Council that an invidious distinction was being made. Reference was made to the fact that the Socialists are debarred by Act of Parliament from speaking in halls and theatres on Sundays, and that they must either proclaim their gospel in the open or not at all. The Socialists had never interfered with the right of other people to freedom of speech, and they objected to others interfering with them—especially when the others hold the right (denied to the Socialists) to use halls on Sundays.

In conclusion, the letter urged the Council to refuse to use its influence at the behest of intolerance, and invited the councilors to attend the meetings to hear the Socialist speakers for themselves.

At the Municipal Council.

WHEN the letter of protest from the Balmain Branch of the S.F.A. was first read up at the Council meeting on Tuesday evening, Feb. 20, Ald. Young moved, and Ald. Jessop seconded, that the matter stand over for discussion later in the evening. This was carried, and after the routine business had been disposed of, the matter was again brought forward.

Ald. Young then moved that the letter be referred, for report, to the General Purposes Committee, to meet Tuesday evening, Feb. 27. He said the Socialists' letter raised a very important question, and deserved earnest consideration.

Ald. Jesson remarked on how well the letter had been put together, and said it was a fair thing to discuss the subject matter of it at once. He had heard the Socialists speaking, and had certainly heard nothing that objection could be taken to. The General Purposes Committee would sit with closed doors.

The Mayor pointed out that the General Purposes Committee, being a sectional committee, must report to open Council, where the matter would be finally dealt with. The Mayor further declared that, as there was a court case pending, the letter should not be discussed at this stage.

Several aldermen were surprised to learn that police court action had already been taken.

Ald. Laws urged that if the Council had done an unwise or unfair thing, that was all the more reason why the letter should be discussed at that stage. He didn't accept the doctrine of the Socialists, but he had no desire to deprive them of the right of free speech. A ratepayer had written to the Council making a complaint, and part of that complaint was that sedition was preached and objectionable language used at the Socialist meetings. Sedition, etc., did not concern that Council at all—it concerned the police authorities; and it was with this in his mind that he advocated sending Mr. Montgomery's letter to the police. But he certainly was not in favor of prosecuting the Socialists for holding meetings. Freedom of speech he regarded as the safeguard of their liberties; and if they were going to suppress free speech they might as well be in Russia. He further declared for equal rights within the municipality. If the police were prosecuting the Socialists for any breach of the law, nothing was being done that could be objected to; but they had no more right to prosecute the Socialists for holding meetings than they had to prosecute the Salvation Army or the Mission. And when he said that, he spoke as one who didn't believe half the Socialists preached.

The Mayor said he did wish the aldermen would take these matters into earlier con-

sideration. He had carried out certain instructions the Council had given him—it was not his action, but theirs—and after he had done what they desired, when a well-written letter like this came asking for equal justice, and protesting against action the Socialists apparently thought very unjust, the aldermen desired to recall what had been done.

Ald. Jesson said that if the Socialists had been doing wrong, the police should have taken action long ago. Personally, he had heard nothing objectionable at Socialist meetings. The previous Sunday night he had noticed a great concourse of people at the Rowntree-street meeting, and that fact alone seemed proof that the people were interested in what the Socialists were saying. The State members of Parliament had spoken at the same spot without interference. If at this stage they were going to suppress freedom of speech, it was coming to a nice state of affairs.

Ald. Young, in reply, said the object of his resolution was to see that justice was done. It was a matter that should not be discussed with heat, and if they gave the letter the consideration it deserved, they would not get away before midnight.

The motion was carried.

At the Police Court.

On Wednesday, Feb. 21, John William Roche was charged at the Balmain police court with loitering in Rowntree-street to the inconvenience of passers-by, and with not having discontinued doing so when ordered by a police officer.

Sergeant Duncan stated that on Feb. 11 the defendant was speaking, and he (the sergeant) ordered him to discontinue doing so. The defendant told him that the only way he could prevent him from speaking would be by arresting him, and he further said that if he were arrested others would take his place.

Cross-examined by Mr. Roche, the sergeant admitted that the Socialists were keeping the footpaths clear, and also that the defendant repeatedly appealed to the audience not to obstruct traffic.

When the defendant sought to ask questions concerning the fact that other bodies were permitted to hold meetings while the Socialists were singled out for suppression and prosecution, THE COUNCIL'S LAWYER OBJECTED, and the Magistrate wouldn't permit the question to be asked. [If a special distinction is being made, why should there be an objection to the people knowing it? If no distinction is being made, surely the Council has nothing to lose by the fact being made public?—Ed.]

Mr. Roche did not give evidence. Addressing the Bench, he said that it might be that he was technically guilty, but it was also certain that morally he had done no wrong. Other people were permitted to hold meetings without interference, and he as a Socialist claimed the same right.

The magistrate "snorted" several times during the case, and once remarked that "if this sort of thing were permitted we should not be able to live." In announcing the sentence, he said he had power to inflict a £20 fine, and would certainly impose heavy penalties in future cases. In the present instance, the fine would be £2, and £1 is professional costs, and 6s costs of court, with an alternative of ONE MONTH'S HARD LABOR.

After the case the Council's solicitor pleaded with Mr. Roche to pay the fine, and offered to ask for a substantial reduction of the penalty and also for time to pay. He explained that, while he was totally opposed to the Socialists, he had no wish to see a decent man go to jail. Mr. Roche replied that this was a matter of principle, and the Socialists weren't paying any fines.

The sentence on Roche can only be described as legal savagery! The magistrate was stipendiary Clarke, who imposed such remarkably severe sentences on the first batch of Red Flag processionists, whose protest against the action of the Wade Government in connection with the coal strike prosecutions aroused much class antagonism. One thing is certain. The worst enemy Magistrate Clarke has could not charge him with being in any way prejudiced on the side of the Socialists. But it is not Clarke who is responsible for the present outrageous attack on free speech. It is the Balmain aldermen on whom the responsibility rests.

As to Motor Car No. 13.

We have ascertained that motor car No. 13 is the property of Dr. Carruthers, "Glenara," Montague street, Balmain.

Sydney D.T., always complaining about the agitators who thrive on class-consciousness, the other day printed an intimation that "Mr. Ahol Stewart and Charles Dean," his chauffeur, met with a motor accident. "Mr. Stewart noticed that one of the tyres was unduly inflated, and Dean got down to investigate." The tyre exploded, and the chauffeur was hurled several yards away and rendered unconscious. "The concussion blew the top of Mr. Stewart's hat clean out. Dean was subsequently found to be blind in one eye." By its studied care to say "Mr. Stewart," and its equally studied care not to say "Mr. Dean," the *Delirium Tremens* proclaims its class-consciousness.

International Notes.

Russia.

ON the occasion of the interpellation regarding the murder of Dr. Karavajev by the "Real Russians," a member of the Party, Gololobov, addressed himself to the Minister of Justice begging him to charge the Social-Democrat Kusnetzov with slander. The Council of Ministers, quite illegally, gave in to Gololobov, although in a similar case a short time before he had declared that such a course was not permissible. Now a beginning has been made with Kusnetzov, the other members will probably soon follow, the Social-Democrats being the only Party in the Duma who show up the horrors of the Russian system of the government.

The movement in favor of the imprisoned members of the Second Duma continues to spread, and assumes ever greater dimensions. Wholesale arrests are being made in consequence—though, indeed, that is nothing new, for ever since August arrests have been matters of daily occurrence at St. Petersburg, especially among the officials of the "legal" workmen's organisations. Most of those arrested are charged simply with being Social-Democrats, and after a few months of solitary confinement are sent by administrative order—that is, without trial—to far-off Northern provinces or to Siberia. At first these arrests caused a good deal of confusion in the organisations, but the panic has gradually died down, though the arrests continue, and the work of the Party is again being carried on in a normal manner.

Belgium.

In January a general strike was in progress among the miners in the Borinage district, because the employers announced their intention of paying wages fortnightly instead of weekly.

France.

The trial of comrades Vian, Dumont, and Baritaud in connection with the "soudé soldat" affair, took place on January 10. They were accused of calling upon soldiers not to fire on strikers when ordered.

Spain.

The seven prisoners of Cullera, who were condemned to death, have been reprieved. Six of them were at first reprieved, leaving only one under sentence of death. The workers of Barcelona threatened a general strike if the execution took place; and king Alfonso then announced that he would sign the reprieve. The premier, Canalejas, objected to the reprieve, and tendered the resignation of his Ministry. Since then, however, he has resumed office.

Italy.

The *Critica Sociale*, a paper with revisionist tendencies, hitherto published by Turati, became the property of the Party on Jan. 1. It will now be published from the *Avanti* office. Turati will continue as editor.

Socialist Young People.

The Union of the Juvenile Workmen, which is organising the German working juvenile in Austria, has made great progress during the last two years. The Union counted on the 31st of March, 1911, 8558 male members and 584 feminine members; 1547 of them were simultaneously members of the trades union. In the year 1910 the *Juvenile Workman*, which is published monthly, reached an edition of 93,500 copies; in the year 1911 the number was 135,500. In the year 1909 there were held in Vienna 273 lectures, with 4900 visitors, and in the year 1910 372 lectures with 6361 visitors.

Portugal.

A *Republica Socialista* (Lisbon) of Nov. 26 prints a resolution from the Central Committee of the Portuguese Socialist Party, in which it is set forth that the members of the Bakers' Union were dispersed by force of arms on Nov. 16 in violation of the written law, that many persons were taken to prison unlawfully, and that the authorities illegally invaded the premises of the Bakers' Union; and the Socialist Party therefore censures the conduct illegal and unconstitutional, resembling that of the odious Brigantine Monarchy; and the Socialist Party finally invites the Portuguese people to organise resistance to the Government and to compel the observance of the laws by the Government.

Political action minus industrial organisation isn't worth the time you waste on it. And industrial action minus political organisation is just as illogical and unscientific. One big revolutionary Union; one big revolutionary Socialist Party—that's what the S.F.A. stands for.

Printed and published for the Proprietors, the International Socialist Club by Henry Edmund Holland, at 61 Goulburn-street, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.